

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 and 13-32 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following is respectfully requested.

A. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16, 18-26, and 28-32 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,091,424 issued to Madden et al. ("Madden") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,320,577 issued to Alexander ("Alexander"). The applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not obvious over Madden in view of Alexander because the combination of Madden and Alexander suggested by the Examiner still does not disclose all of the claimed elements of the present invention.

Madden discloses a process which provides automated placement of labels for a given graph layout or map. *See e.g.*, abstract. Madden teaches the use of an optimization problem to find a set of label placements for each graphical feature of a graph layout or map. *See* Col. 5, line 47-Col. 6, line 19. Madden only discloses finding a label placement for each graphical feature of a graph layout or map that has the least cost which is free of overlaps, but not analyzing the information associated with the label. *See* Col. 5, line 47-Col. 6, line 19; Col. 7, lines 20-22. The crucial distinction between inventions referred to by the Examiner and the claimed invention resides in the label data that is manipulated by the claimed invention versus the placement of the labels in the inventions cited by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that Madden does not provide sufficient basis for deeming the claims of the present invention obvious. Madden only teaches finding the optimum location for the placement of labels for the

graphical features of a graph layout or map that is provided as input to the method.

Madden does not teach extracting and analyzing time label information comprising time labels or manipulation of the labels' time data. The present invention discloses manipulation of the labels' time data itself, disregarding the values associated with a given time, and using that information to label the axis of a graph. As stated in Claim 1, the present invention generates "time labels by extracting and analyzing time label information from input data comprising time labels," while Madden neither discloses nor suggests any extraction and analysis of time label information from the input data comprising time labels. Further, Madden does not teach the creation of a multi-level data structure in which to store the extracted time data that is then used to label the axis of a graph, as also stated in Claim 1. For these reasons, Madden alone does not render the above claimed invention obvious.

Combining Madden with Alexander also does not render the claimed invention obvious, as Alexander only teaches a system for moving a label's position. Given that Madden does not teach the appropriate interaction and manipulation of the time data, any manipulation of the presentation of data as taught by Alexander is irrelevant to the present invention.

Therefore, as both Madden and Alexander, either alone or combined, do not teach the time labels by extracting and analyzing time label information from input data comprising time labels, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections based on Madden in light of Alexander do not render the independent claim 1 obvious. Claims 11, 13, and 23 are similar to claim 1, and are thus traversed by the same reasoning. As

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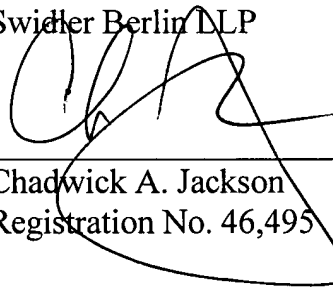
claims 2-10, 14-22, and 24-32 depend from the aforementioned independent claims, the objections regarding these have been traversed as well.

B. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (19111.0013).

Respectfully submitted,

Swidler Berlin LLP



By: _____

Chadwick A. Jackson
Registration No. 46,495

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SWIDLER BERLIN LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500